

DENIX: The Tool Kit for Success and Partnering

Ms. Germaine A. Hofbauer
Defense Environmental Security Corporate
Information Management Program Office
200 Stovall Street, Room 12S49
Alexandria, VA 22332-2300
703-325-0002

Ms. Jacquelin J. Hux
President, TEAM Consulting, Incorporated
Under Contract to:
Defense Environmental Security Corporate
Information Management Program Office

DENIX, the Defense Environmental Network and Information eXchange, is the World Wide Web standard system for all Department of Defense (DoD) Environmental Security Professionals. This system facilitates exchange of information and ideas between all DoD Environmental Security professionals world wide and promotes free exchange of information with people outside the Department, such as other Federal and State government organizations, Native Americans, International organizations and the public at large. The system has many capabilities that facilitate communication and conducting business operations as well as a great depth in current events, news and information.

DENIX serves as a centralized platform for the dissemination of policy and guidance, access to information sources and transmission of data up and down the command chain. DoD's environmental policy emanates from the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environmental Security (DUSD(ES)). This office maintains a hands-on interest in the development of DENIX and other systems supporting environmental programs within DoD. DUSD(ES) serves as the primary functional proponent for DENIX, supplemented by tri-service representatives.

DENIX provides access to vast repositories of information. Annually, DENIX is utilized by more than 4,000 DoD personnel, who are involved with environmental programs from the installation level up to the policy-making level of the DUSD(ES) Office. These users login to the system for timely access to information on:

Air
Cleanup/Installation Restoration
Compliance
Conservation and Natural/Cultural
Resources
Environmental Planning
Explosive Safety
Hazardous Substance Management
International Activities

ISO 14000
Land
Native American
Noise
Pest Management
Pollution Prevention
Safety/Occupational Health/Fire
Toxic Substances
Water

The depth and richness of the information in these topic areas makes DENIX an essential tool for the environmental professional at all levels. The following features provide DENIX users with a wide range of methods for accessing information:

The calendar of environmental events - A calendar which is can be interactively updated by the user community and can be used as a planning tool for scheduling meetings, conferences, workshops and training events.

Links to other environmental Web sites - Numerous federal, state, and public sites can be directly accessed through hypertext links.

Central subscriptions to environmental news, regulations, and technology - Updated proprietary subscriptions to journals such as the BNA's "Daily Environmental Report," the weekly "Inside EPA," and the "Defense Environmental Alert".

Online access to current federal and state regulations - Full text of state laws and regulations which are searchable by key words.

Enhanced search engine - The improved search engine on DENIX links to 34 carefully selected sites which keeps user queries focused within the applicable environmental domain.

Ongoing discussion forums - A special area posted throughout the life-cycle of a project or work group to aid in communications relating to the project.

Chat room - Real time discussions among environmental professionals.

Upload/download features - Many systems enable file downloads only. By providing two way capability, reporting is facilitated both up and down command channels.

There are four unique menu areas on DENIX: DoD, Public, State and International. Eligible DoD environmental professionals wishing to obtain a login to the restricted DENIX DoD area may do so online at: www.denix.osd.mil. DUSD(ES) strongly encourages members of the contracting community to access DENIX. There are some restrictions for contractor eligibility to access the DoD menu. The contractor must be currently supporting a DoD environmental contract, and contractors will be blocked from viewing the daily and weekly online environmental journal subscriptions. The State and International menu areas require registration. This form is also available at the URL shown above. There are no limitations to the Public menu of DENIX.

The system facilitates DoD outreach to other Federal, State and international organizations. For instance, a joint partnership between DoD and the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) resulted in a new menu item dedicated to the special issues impacting the states. DENIX supported early NATO committee efforts to exchange information on environmental cooperative agreements among the NATO community. A new initiative provides a dedicated DENIX menu area for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians environmental programs

The DENIX International menu serves as a platform to facilitate work in various cooperative arrangements where DOD is working with other organizations or countries. For example, the US-Swedish Defense Environmental Cooperative Agreement between the Department of Defense of The United States of America and The Armed Forces of The Kingdom of Sweden for Cooperation on Environmental Protection in Defense Matters uses the DENIX

International menu. Other related initiatives which, like the US-Swedish initiative, use DENIX as a communications medium and feature special program related menu area items on the system:

- US/Canada/Australia Trilateral Forum
- Arctic Military Environmental Cooperative Agreement (AMEC)
- Environmental Cooperation in the Baltic States
- Department of State Environmental Hubs program.

DENIX is also used to provide users with information on the development and implementation of innovative environmental technologies. A page on Remedy Selection/Remediation Technology provides over twenty Application Analysis Reports on site specific case studies of cleanup technologies that have been implemented at DoD and Department of Energy installations. These case studies document site specific examples of the performance, cost, regulatory issues, and lessons learned in implementing an innovative technology. Links to other federal agencies and private sector Web sites are also available to exchange cost and performance data in this same format.

As DENIX continues to improve, it is experiencing a rapid growth rate. The ultimate goal of the cooperating organizations is to promote a scenario where DENIX becomes a knowledge station for all DoD environmental security professionals. With DENIX as the entry point they will be able to accomplish most of their research, reporting, and communications requirements from a single point of entry.

In summary, DENIX is a dynamic system. Its origins are in the tri-services bulletin board systems, its present is a compilation of environmental tools, information and data, and its future will be shaped by the needs of environmental professionals and evolving environmental requirements as set by policy and legislation.